Budget allocation for rural development

4549. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a proportion of GDP, the allocations proposed in the budget 2007-08 for rural development are still below the allocations estimated in 2002-03; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) There is no direct co-relation between GDP and Budget Allocation. The Budget Allocation for different sectors mainly depends on the priorities determined by the Government and availability of Gross Budgetary Support. There has been a significant step up of allocation for Ministry of Rural Development over the years since 2002-03. The Budget Estimates for 2002-03 for rural development was Rs. 13670.00 crores which has been increased to Rs. 41060.00 crores (including Rs. 4500.00 crores loan from NABARD) in the Budget for 2007-08 representing an increase of more than 200 per cent over 2002-03 (BE).

Houses under Rural Housing Scheme for SCs and STs

4550. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target and actual completion of construction of houses under different rural housing schemes for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes during the last three financial years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the unit cost being provided under these schemes is insufficient due to rise in cost of construction, building materials etc.;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the unit cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) As per Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) guidelines, at least 60% of the total IAY allocation during a financial year should be utilized for construction/upgradation of